

Patent Application No. 10/688,174
Amdt. date: September 18, 2004
Response to June 18, 2004 Office Action

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, a typographic error was corrected in the paragraph appearing at the bottom of page 6.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 3-6, 15-17 and 19 have been withdrawn and claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 12-14 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice to re-submit the subject matter of these claims in this or a continuing application.

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,383,708 to Nagasaka et al.. Claims 7, 11 and 18 have been re-written in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim 1, which has been canceled. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from amended claim 7. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 7, 11 and 18 is moot.

In order to anticipate a claim, the prior art reference must teach each and every limitation found in the claim. Claims 7 and 8 as amended claim connectors not suggested or taught in Nagasaka. Similarly, claims 11 as amended, claims an apparatus conforming to government standards not taught or suggested in Nagasaka. Claim 18 as amended claims an "upper tether redirection system" not taught or suggested in Nagasaka. Finally, new claim 21, claims an "upper tether" not taught or suggested in Nagasaka.

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Based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that claims 7, 11, 18, and 21 be passed to issue. This submission is thought to be timely without any need for an extension of time; however, if any such extension of time is needed, Applicant respectfully requests that this submission be considered as a petition for extension of time sufficient to render this submission timely. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this submission, other than issue fees, and to credit any overpayments which may be due to the undersigned counsel's deposit account 10-0435 with reference to our file 2835-73549. Applicants ask that the Examiner contact Applicants' counsel James R. Sweeney II (317-231-7771) should the Examiner have any further questions after review of the present amendment.

Respectfully,

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